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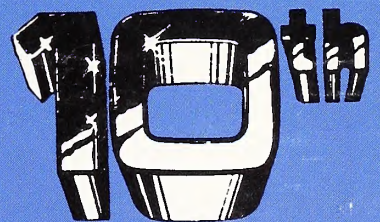
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California Desert Conservation Area



Mopah Peak



ANNIVERSARY

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



There are two dates which have historic significance to the California Desert. First, is 1976 when Congress approved the passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, which established the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA); second, 1980 when the California Desert Plan was completed and approved by two national presidential administrations.

The creation of the CDCA was in direct response to public recognition that the desert public lands be managed and protected through a multiple use plan.

Located in the southeast corner of the state, the CDCA has 25 million acres of California's 101 million acres, representing 25 percent of the state. The CDCA has 12.1 million acres of public lands managed by the Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management.

BLM Library
Denver Federal Center
Bldg. 50, OC-521
P.O. Box 25047
Denver, CO 80225



Providence Mountains
Wilderness Study Area

Dear Public Land User



Welcome to the California Desert Conservation Area. Within this brochure, you will find information about this unique area of BLM-administered public lands: how it was designated and how BLM has carried out the Congressional mandates.

Most important, though, is why this region and its public lands are important to you and all Americans.

The desert region in Southern California is our backyard. For years it was neglected, or viewed as only a barrier to overcome, and then as a wasteland good only for military training. But it did harbor mineral resources, and many were developed. And families established livestock operations on the high country forage and periodic abundance from occasional wet seasons.

In the last 40 years, all began to recognize the importance of the desert. It is a region in which to seek solitude, to engage in active sports, to see wildflowers, explore back roads and mining towns, see vestiges of the Old West at branding time, and dig gem stones in a dry wash. It has also remained an extremely important region in the production of economic minerals. And, it has hidden values for adapted wildlife, special cultural and Native American values, and production for forage for cattle and sheep as well as wild horses and burros.

Ten years ago, Congress established the California Desert Conservation Area, dedicated to meeting the special needs and desires of the burgeoning population of Southern California, as well as recognizing the special fragility of desert resources.

No other region in the United States has this unique setting of availability of public land and population. The 16 million people who live here have a variety of desires for open space, room to actively participate in outdoor

recreation, and to preserve the essential wildland character of the land. But the 500,000 people who live in the desert have their needs too. Many live from the resources of the desert: mineral production, grazing livestock, providing tourist services. The desert provides, too, the avenues of access to the population centers — routes for electric energy, fuel and transportation.

Within this diversity of needs, desires, and abundant resources lie differences of opinion over how land uses should be managed. The California Desert Plan, developed six years ago with your participation, assured that the resources on the public lands received the protection and attention they deserved and that wildland values would be protected. This was the second step after the initial thrust by Congress.

The third and final step has been implementation of the plan. Details of specific accomplishments are continued inside. What has been accomplished has been due largely to people caring and getting involved. What needs to be finished will require no less desire and commitment on the part of both citizens and government.

Welcome to the California Desert Conservation Area. On this, its 10th anniversary, we take pride in sharing the desert in all its glory with you. As we move into the 21st century, we want to assure that the desert receives the recognition that is due its lands and resources. And we want to assure you, the public, our commitment to protect those resources and still leave you the opportunities to enjoy it.

Ed Hastey *Gerald E. Hillier*

Ed Hastey
State Director

Gerald E. Hillier
District Manager

***"... a significant milestone in the management of
America's public lands"***



GERALD R. FORD

September 3, 1986

Dear Mr. Hastey,

Ten years ago, I signed the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, which included the establishment of the California Desert Conservation Area. During the past decade I have been pleased to see the results of that legislation blossom into an important example of a management partnership between citizens and their government. And as a resident of the Desert, I see the positive effects of that partnership in providing for resources use, protection and development so that all the multiple values of the public lands can be enjoyed by the millions of residents, users and concerned citizens here in Southern California.

I congratulate the people who have been involved in the planning and management of the Desert over the last ten years. The first advisory council, which Secretary Kleppe appointed, did their job well, keeping in mind the mandate for multiple use while assuring adequate protection for critical areas. The continuing dedication and commitment of many citizens and public employees has assured the successful implementation of the plan and management to the unique values of the Desert.

I am pleased that I have played a part in the California Desert Conservation Area and look forward to the continuing success of this innovative program of public land management.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford

"... continuing dedication and commitment of many citizens and public employees has assured the successful implementation of the plan ..."

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 16, 1986

The 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the California Desert Conservation Area is a significant milestone in the management of America's public lands. This area, created by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, is a unique combination of diverse natural resources and scenic beauty, offering recreational opportunities to millions of people.

Recognizing both the needs of people and the need to preserve natural resources, the California Desert Plan was developed through both innovation and active citizen involvement. Those who developed the Desert Plan were dedicated to multiple use of our public lands and sustained yields and were able to develop an effective framework which balances resources, use, development and protection. As a result, management of this area serves as a model for all public lands.

It gives me great pleasure to commend the many citizens who have made this mandate a success. I congratulate private citizens, employees of the Bureau of Land Management, members of the Advisory Committees, and State and local officials who have committed themselves to supporting the ideals of the Desert Plan over the past 10 years.

This noteworthy endeavor is convincing proof that citizens are ready and willing to take pride in America's public lands. Inspired by your achievements, I envision a future that will assure the availability of the resources and values of the Desert for the benefit of all Americans. Thank you for your efforts to bring this about, and God bless you.

Ronald Reagan

California Desert Conservation Area



“... to provide for the immediate and future protection and administration of the public lands in the California desert within the framework of a program of multiple use and sustained yield, and the maintenance of environmental quality.”

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976

In the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Congress stated:

(1) the California desert contains historical, scenic, archaeological, environmental, biological, cultural, scientific, educational, recreational, and economic resources that are uniquely located adjacent to an area of large population;

(2) the California desert environment is a total ecosystem that is extremely fragile, easily scarred, and slowly healed;

(3) the California desert environment and its resources, including certain rare and endangered species of wildlife, plants, and fishes, and numerous archaeological and historic sites, are seriously threatened by air pollution, inadequate Federal management authority, and pressures of increased use, particularly recreational use, which are certain to intensify because of the rapidly growing population of southern California;

(4) the use of all California desert resources can and should be provided for in a multiple use and sustained yield management plan to conserve these resources for future

generations, and to provide present and future use and enjoyment, particularly outdoor recreation uses, including the use, where appropriate, of off-road recreational vehicles;

(5) the Secretary has initiated a comprehensive planning process and established an interim management program for the public lands in the California desert; and

(6) to insure further study of the relationship of man and the California desert environment, preserve the unique and irreplaceable resources, including archaeological values, and conserve the use of the economic resources of the California desert, the public must be provided more opportunity to participate in such planning and management, and additional management authority must be provided to the Secretary to facilitate effective implementation of such planning and management.”

Kerr-McGee's Argus facility
near Trona on Searles Lake



Beavertail Cactus in bloom
Mine on public lands
Sand Canyon
Freeman Well
Desert OHV Race in
Johnson Valley

The Desert Plan



Federal Land Policy and Management Act 1976

The California Desert Plan offers a dynamic framework for the management of the public lands and the protection of its resources. It serves as a unique example of cooperation between government and the citizens of the nation. The Plan has served, for the last six years, as a blueprint for preserving the desert user's cherished sense of freedom in a sometimes crowded world. It keeps a proper balance between that freedom and protecting the resources from unrestrained use and degradation.

When Congress created the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) in 1976, it mandated that a plan be formulated which would include the management, use, development and protection of all public lands within the CDCA. With that mandate in hand, BLM officials began the process which would require four years of effort, millions of dollars in funding, intensive involvement and participation by the public and public land users in order to identify the multiple uses of the desert, and to resolve conflicts resulting from the multiple use and sustained yield direction from Congress.

The Secretary of the Interior appointed a California Desert Conservation Area Advisory Committee,

Fast Camel Cruise

McCain Valley Campground

"... shall prepare and implement a comprehensive, long-range plan for the management, use, development, and protection of the public lands within the California Desert Conservation Area."

"... plan shall take into account principles of multiple use and sustained yield in providing for resource use and development, including, but not limited to, maintenance of environmental quality, rights-of-way, and mineral development."

selected from a wide spectrum of Californians with an interest in and knowledge of desert lands and their resources. Over the next four years, the Advisory Committee held 21 public meetings throughout southern California seeking the advice and counsel of hundreds of private citizens who willingly voiced their concerns and contributed specific information. More than 50,000 responses were received from the public during the planning period. To assimilate all of this information and develop planning alternatives, the BLM established a Desert Planning Staff.

The Draft California Desert Plan Alternatives and Environmental Impact Statement were provided to the public for review and comment in February of 1980. Twelve formal public hearings were held on the contents of that document. BLM then published the Proposed California Desert Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement and followed that up with an additional dozen public hearings.

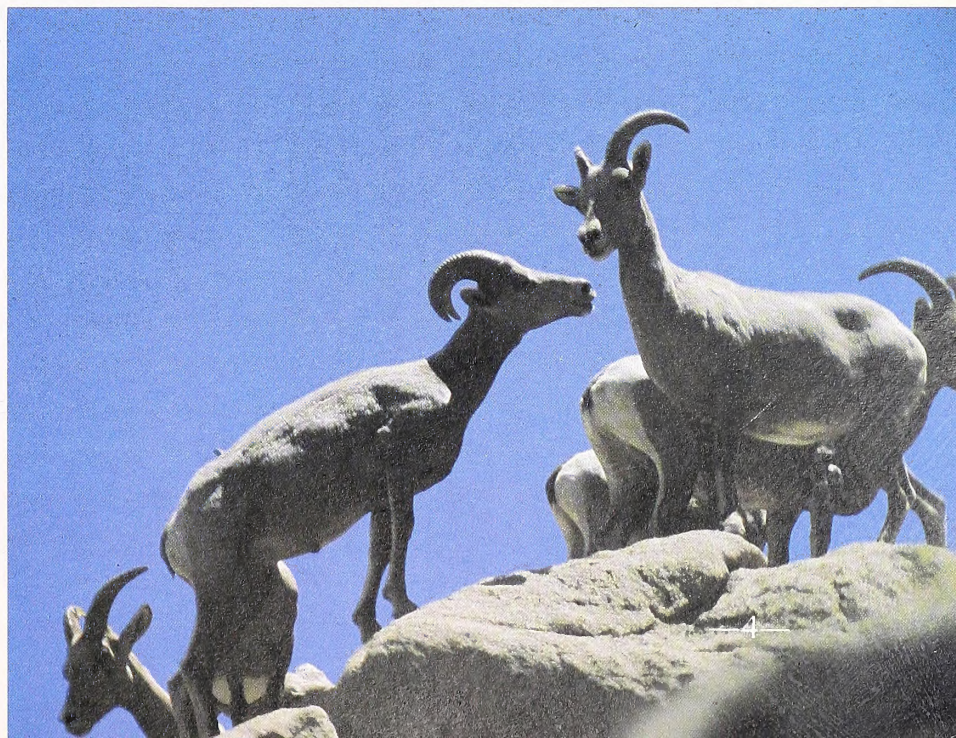
With full analysis completed, the Advisory Committee voted unanimously to endorse the plan, as modified to reflect public input, and presented it to the Secretary of the Interior who gave his approval in December 1980.

With the inauguration of a new presidential administration in 1981, the plan was provided to the new Secretary of the Interior, who authorized implementation by the BLM.

The goal of the California Desert Plan, as envisioned throughout the formulating process, was to recognize the diversity of the public's rights, privileges and needs on the public lands, and to balance them with available resources while protecting and enhancing significant resource values. The Plan also sought to maintain the public's ability to enjoy the public lands of the California Desert.

Establishment of the California Desert Conservation Area in 1976 and the completion of the Desert Plan in 1980 served to ease the conflicts by educating the public to the fact that desert resources have many values that require management and development. The Desert Plan can continue to serve as the desert's guiding document into the 21st Century.

Desert Bighorn Sheep



Protection and Progress



- Created a California Desert Advisory Council of 15 members to assume the work of the original citizen's advisory committee. All members of the council are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to advise the CDCA District Manager on issues affecting the management of the public lands in the desert. The council meets two to four times each year and reviews action plans and new issues.
- Established four zoning classes to designate uses of the land and established guidelines within each class governing uses and restrictions:

Class C (controlled use) recommended 2 million acres for possible inclusion in wilderness designations.

Class L (limited use) has 5.9 million acres and provides for protection of sensitive, natural, scenic, ecological, and cultural resources.



Providence Mtn. Area

Mickey Mouse welcomes
BLM Burro to
Disneyland's
Big Thunder Ranch

Class M (moderate use) has 3.3 million acres designated which are lands requiring a balanced, controlled use that provides for a wide variety of present and future uses such as mining, livestock grazing, recreation, and energy and utility development. Desert resources are to be conserved, and any damage is to be mitigated.

Class I (intensive use) was designated on 500,000 acres of desert lands.

300,000 acres were left as "unclassified" in recognition of their character and location, and to provide for disposal actions when in the public interest.

- Designated 77 separate areas, containing 650,000 acres, as special management areas to insure cultural and resource values. These areas, identified as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) require special management because of historical, cultural or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems needing protection and special maintenance. Site-specific management plans for each of these areas are being developed with 45 plans already complete.

- Developed with extensive public involvement a travel network for visitors to the CDCA. Over 20 maps were produced identifying 15,000 miles of paved and maintained roads and 28,000 miles of unmaintained roads to improve protection and quality recreational experience of the desert.
- Reduced the wild burro threat to desert vegetation and forage by capturing and adopting out 20,000 animals in all areas of the desert including the China Lake Naval Weapons Station and Death Valley National Monument. Wild burros are nearing the required management level for the desert.

Wind Energy



Protection and Progress

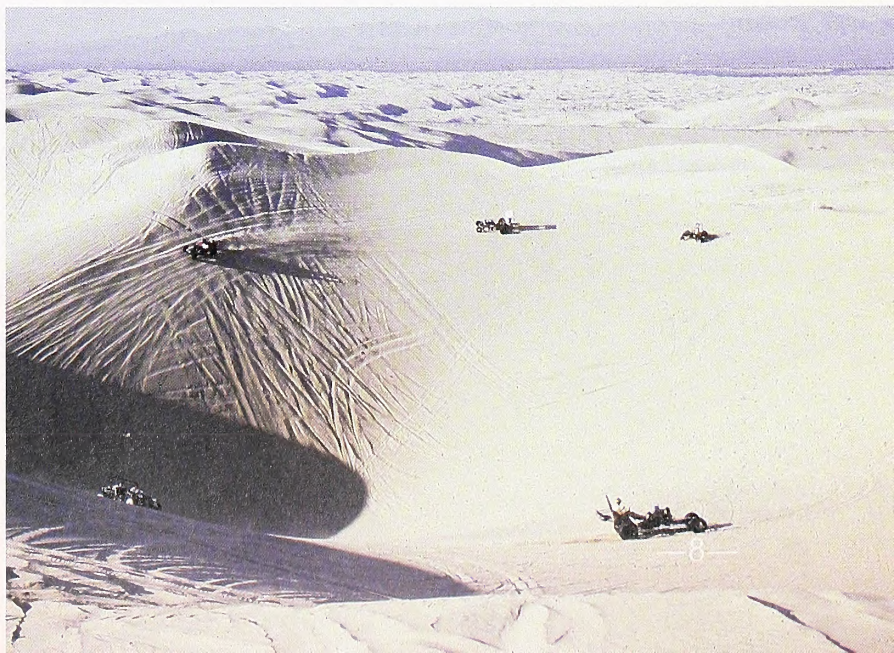


- Assisted the bighorn sheep recovery program through elimination of the majority of wild burros from bighorn sheep habitat areas. Bighorn sheep populations have increased to the point where state Fish and Game officials are considering opening a hunting season on two ranges in California.
- Studied 136 areas totaling 5.9 million acres and determined that 1.9 million are suitable for wilderness designation. Performed studies as required by law on the 1.9 million acres. The balance, even if not designated as wilderness, will be managed to protect the resource values as determined by the Desert Plan.
- Implemented management of the 1.2 million acre East Mojave National Scenic Area to assure high public visibility and resource protection for this scenic gem.

Desert Tortoise
Dumont Dunes
Fringe-toed Lizard
Freeman Well Area

- Installed special signing along I-15 and I-40 to provide public awareness to such attractions as Kelso Sand Dunes, petroglyphs, ancient native settlements, flora and fauna, and the Old Mojave Road, a link to the Old West within the CDCA.
- Acquired 16,000 acres of private land, through an exchange of 7,300 acres of public lands, both valued at \$5.3 million, to improve management of the CDCA.
- Established and enhanced a 13,000-acre preserve for the Fringe-toed lizard in the Coachella Valley, through the cooperation of the BLM, The Nature Conservancy, University of California, California Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Established and fenced a 15,000-acre Desert Tortoise Natural Area near California City, to protect the habitat of California's state reptile.
- Leased to communities, cities, counties and other public entities, more than 14,000 acres of public lands for uses ranging from parks, sanitary landfills, schools, to hiking and equestrian trails. 2,800 acres of public lands were patented to public agencies such as cities and counties, for use as recreational lands, a community center, plant preserve, health treatment facility, cemetery, or Living Desert Preserve.
- Identified and designated specific corridors for newly developed microwave communication sites.
- Limited cross-country crude oil and natural gas pipelines to already established corridors, such as along railroad rights-of-way so as not to create new corridors across the desert. Limited electrical transmission lines to existing corridors to prevent intrusion into new areas of the desert.
- Harnessed the winds of the Tehachapi and San Geronio Pass areas of the desert where 4,500 acres of public land have been used for wind energy production by 2,200 wind machines which provide 200 million kilowatt hours of power annually. Considered wind applications near Clark Mountain and Table Mountain and rejected those applications because of high resource conflicts.

Dune Buggy play in the Imperial Sand Dunes



Protection and Progress



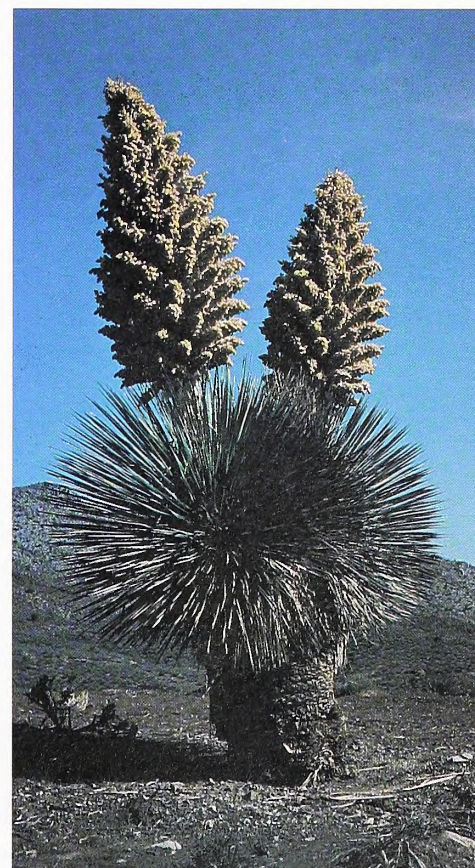
Ocotillo in Davies Valley
Rattlesnake in the Panamint Valley

Grazing Cattle
Keynot Mine

America's Cup National
Regatta at Ivanpah
Transmission Lines



- Installed eight Long Term Visitor Areas to provide a camping experience of up to eight months in one location for the influx of "Snowbirds," visitors from cold northern States and Canada who travel in RV's to the warmer deserts during winter months. Reduced long-term camping impacts on nearby critical wildlife habitat areas.
- Developed 18 off-highway-vehicle use areas with \$4.3 million in State Green Sticker monies. Nine of those projects have been completed with the remaining in various stages of completion. These have improved access and increased visitor use opportunities.
- Began work toward the establishment of a permanent memorial to the former General George Patton Desert Training Center Headquarters site, and the thousands of GI's who trained during World War II on the desert. A museum is planned. Oral histories taken directly from former trainees have been made a part of the proposed memorial. Photographs and relics of the military training days during the early 1940's are included in the project.
- Conducted the Desert Plan amendment process to annually consider new issues and problems raised by the public each year. The Desert Advisory Council oversees the amendment process.
- Developed and distributed informational brochures to thousands of individuals who use the CDCA as a site for recreational activities which include hikers, photographers, hunters, horsemen, back-packers, campers, rock hounds, recreational miners, land sailors, rocketeers, kite flyers, off-highway vehicle enthusiasts, and thousands of others with their own individual recreational needs.
- Worked with volunteers to reestablish the Old Mojave Road as a designated recreational trail, and provide historical information to users.
- Authorized development of the fifth largest gold mine in the world, operated on public lands near Glamis by Goldfield, Inc.
- Issued rights-of-way for the first west-to-east oil pipelines to All American/Celeron Company and the Pacific Texas Pipeline Company. These projects will carry hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil per day from California to Texas.
- Recorded over 50,000 mining claims throughout the desert as required by law and processed over 1,200 Plans of Operation associated with mineral exploration and development. These Plans of Operation require environmental review and mitigation of impacts.



Giant Nolina

An Historical Perspective



Back in 1968, the Bureau of Land Management began work on the first organized study of what is today known as the California Desert Conservation Area. That first study was finalized that same year and updated in 1970 under the direction of J.R. (Russ) Penny, BLM State Director.

These documents recorded the framework for the future legislation that would result in the establishment of the California Desert Conservation Area.

In 1971, HR 9661, and, again in 1973, HR 5288, were introduced by Congressman Bob Mathias, legislation which sought the implementation and funding of the California Desert Plan. The bills were cosponsored by 29 and 31 California Congressional members, respectively.

In 1973, both California Senators, Alan Cranston and John Tunney, introduced legislation in the upper house to establish the CDCA.

In 1974, Congressman Jerry Pettis of Loma Linda authored HR 820 to establish the CDCA. Pettis was killed in the crash of his private plane on February 14, 1975 on a flight from Palm Springs to Tri-City Airport in San Bernardino County. His wife, Shirley

Pettis, replaced the late Congressional Representative in the House of Representatives and continued her late husband's efforts to obtain passage of the legislation.

At the same time, Senator Cranston reintroduced his S. 63 which also sought establishment of the CDCA.

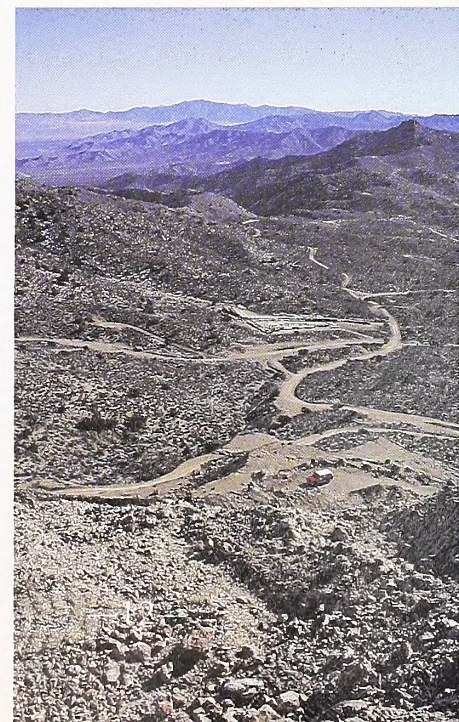
All of these efforts culminated in the passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, which established the California Desert Conservation Area and called for the creation of the California Desert Plan.

The late Secretary of the Interior, Rogers C. B. Morton, in commenting on BLM State Director Russ Penny's contributions toward establishment of the CDCA, said, "(He) worked with skill and drive to make the nation aware that resources of the California Desert are treasures to be enjoyed, but with proper care. This exemplary resource manager also has done more than anyone else to give us the tools to assure that this unique area will be protected. The California Desert Plan marks the high point of a remarkable career in Federal service."

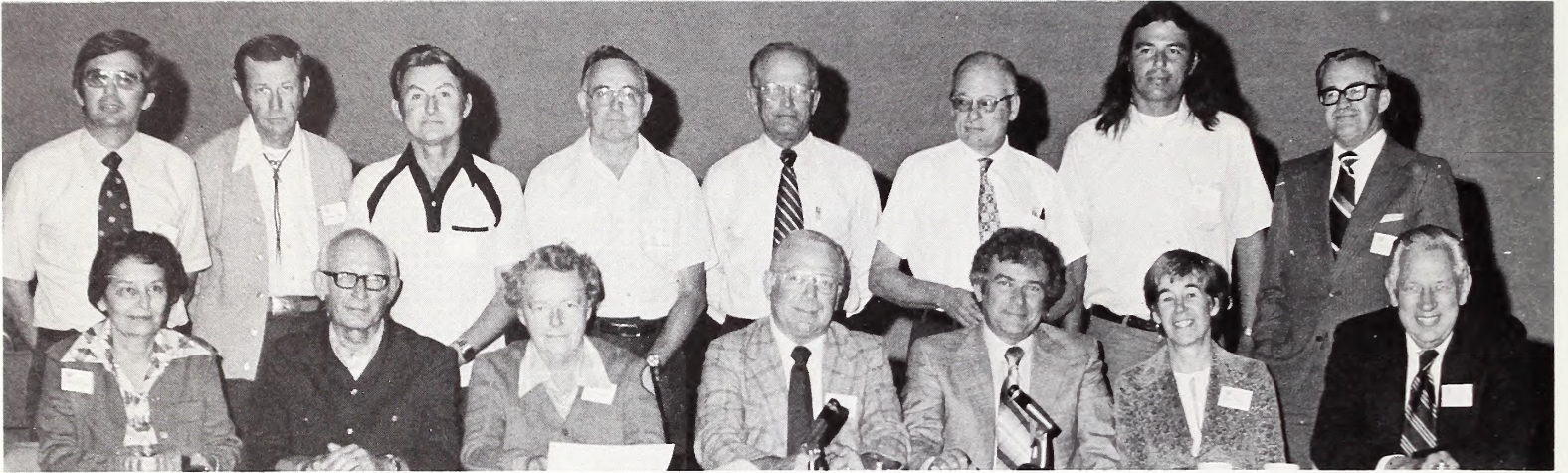
To honor two of the pioneers in the development of the CDCA, the BLM has named a site overlooking the scenic Panamint Valley the "Russ Penny Overlook" and a second overlook near the Cima Road offramp in the East Mojave National Scenic Area the "Pettis Overlook" in memory of the late Congressman Jerry Pettis and his wife, Shirley.

Lake at Fort Soda-Mojave
Chub Habitat
Western Tanager
Arrastra at Marl Spring
Motorcycle Race - 1983
Barstow to Vegas
Range Cow
Afton Canyon

Colosseum Gorge



California Desert Conservation Area Advisory Committee



ORIGINAL COMMITTEE

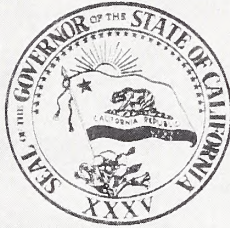
STANDING LEFT TO RIGHT:

James W. Burns, Richard Vogl, Leon Hunter, Wilbur Mayhew, Dean Lemon
Richard Jahns, Willie Pink, Frank DeVore

SEATED LEFT TO RIGHT:

Erna Schuiling, Harvey Perloff, Ruth Simpson, Clayton Record, Ronald
Sloan, Genny Smith, L.W. Lane, Jr.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



A PROCLAMATION
by the Governor of the State of California

WHEREAS, California's deserts cover over one quarter of the entire state; and

WHEREAS, the natural resources of the California Desert are valuable to all citizens, providing employment, economic return, scenic beauty, recreational opportunity, cultural and historic points of interest, and an abundance of flora and fauna unique in the world; and

WHEREAS, the desert lands are sensitive to uses, easily scarred and slow to heal, requiring special management and protection; and

WHEREAS, the management of desert resources for the benefit of all Californians and the use of desert wildlands by millions of visitors each year are too often overlooked and unrecognized; and

WHEREAS, this October marks the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Desert Region of Southern California as the California Desert Conservation Area;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim October 1986 as California Desert Month in California and encourage all citizens to learn more about our vast and diverse desert resources.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 23rd day of September 1986.

George Deukmejian
Governor of California

ATTEST:

Murch Frazier
Secretary of State



California Desert District
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507
(714) 351-6394

Barstow Resource Area
150 Coolwater Lane
Barstow, CA 92311
(619) 256-3501

Ridgecrest Resource Area
112 East Dolphin Street
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
(619) 375-7125

El Centro Resource Area
333 South Waterman Avenue
El Centro, CA 92243
(619) 352-5842

Needles Resource Area
101 West Spikes Road
Needles, CA 92363
(619) 326-3896

Indio Resource Area
1900 Tahquitz-McCallum Way
Suite B-1
Palm Springs, CA 92262
(619) 323-4421



Alligator Rock Area



ZYZYX Springs (Fort Soda)



Cholla Cactus



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR